

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for accurately measuring hearing loss, comprising the steps of:

selecting a series of audio tones within the normal range of hearing;

measuring a relative sensitivity of a test subject with respect to the ability to hear each of said audio tones, exclusive of the effects of tinnitus, said measuring step including selecting a plurality of audio tones, and determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for a test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level; and

wherein said subjectively equal loudness level exceeds a noise level attributable to said tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for accurately measuring hearing loss, comprising the steps of:

selecting a series of audio tones within the normal range of hearing;

measuring a relative sensitivity of a test subject with respect to the ability to hear each of said audio tones, exclusive of the effects of tinnitus; said measuring step including determining for each tone an intensity necessary for said test subject to hear said tones at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to said tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone; and

determining a difference between said intensity measured for each of said tones and an intensity predicted by a standard loudness contour for each of said tones.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 further comprising the step of selecting said standard loudness contour to be at least one of a Fletcher-Munson Loudness Contour and a functional equivalent of a Fletcher-Munson Loudness Contour.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of measuring a noise level attributable to tinnitus.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of configuring at least one gain setting of a hearing aid to compensate for said hearing loss determined in said measuring step.

9. (Currently amended) A method for setting a frequency dependent audio gain of a hearing aid device for a person suffering from tinnitus, comprising the steps of:

measuring a test subject's loss of hearing attributable exclusively to dispersion in the hearing channel;

setting for each of a plurality of frequency bands of said hearing aid device an audio gain level to compensate exclusively for said dispersion loss;

wherein said measuring step comprises selecting a plurality of audio tones, and determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for a test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for setting a frequency dependent audio gain of a hearing aid device for a person suffering from tinnitus, comprising the steps of:

measuring a test subject's loss of hearing attributable exclusively to dispersion in the hearing channel, wherein said measuring a test subject's loss of hearing comprises selecting a series of audio tones within the normal range of hearing and measuring a relative sensitivity of said test subject with respect to the ability to hear each of said audio tones, exclusive of the effects tinnitus noise;

setting for each of a plurality of frequency bands of said hearing aid device an audio gain level to compensate exclusively for said dispersion loss;

determining for each audio tone an intensity necessary for said test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level relative to a remainder of said series which exceeds a noise level attributable to said tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone; and

determining a difference between said intensity and a predicted intensity indicated by a standard loudness contour.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of selecting said standard loudness contour to be a Fletcher-Munson Loudness Contour.

15. (Currently amended) A method for providing high fidelity hearing restoration, comprising the steps of:

measuring a test subject's loss of hearing attributable exclusively to dispersion in the hearing channel;

setting for each of a plurality of frequency bands of a hearing aid device an audio gain level to compensate exclusively for said dispersion; and

wherein said measuring step comprises selecting a plurality of audio tones, and determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for a test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for accurately measuring hearing loss, comprising the steps of:

selecting a series of audio frequencies within the normal range of hearing;

measuring a test subject's loss of hearing at each frequency attributable exclusively to dispersion in the hearing channel, wherein said measuring step comprises selecting a plurality of audio tones, and determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for a test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone.